CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A digital camera that fits within the film cavity of a non-digital camera comprising:

a light detector for detecting light due to the opening of the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera; and

an imager coupled to the light detector and located adjacent to the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera, said imager sensing radiated energy reflective of the image received through a lens and shutter aperture of the non-digital camera when the light detector detects light due to the opening of the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera, said imager generating signals reflective of the image.

2. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a memory for storing digital data reflective of the image.

3. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a passgate coupled to the light detector located between the imager and a clock input to the imager, said passgate controlled by the light detector such that when the light detector detects light due to the opening of the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera, the passgate is switched to permit clock signals to reach the imager to driver the imager to output signals reflective of the image.

4. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, wherein the light detector controls power to the imager such that when the light detector detects light due to the opening of the shutter aperture of the non-digital

camera, power is supplied to the imager to generate signals reflective of the image.

5. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, wherein the light detector controls the output from the imager such that when the light detector detects light due to the opening of the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera, output signals reflective of the image are output from the imager.

6. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising circuitry for performing signal processing on the signals output by imager.

7. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising at least one output port for outputting image data from the digital camera to an external device.

8. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port comprises a wireless transmitter for transmitting image data to wireless receiver of an external device.

9. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port is coupled to a substantially flat cable that extends outside of the body of the non-digital camera when a film door of the non-digital camera is closed and connects to an external device.

10. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port outputs image in a format compatible with the RS-232 standard.

11. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port couples to a monitor, said digital camera further comprising circuitry that drives the monitor to display the image on the monitor.

12. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the external device drives a monitor to display the image.

13. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the external device drives a printer to generate a print of the image.

14. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port operates in accordance with a telephone standard, said digital camera further comprising logic to generate a facsimile transmission that is output through the output port to a coupled telephone line.

15. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port couples to the internet.

16. The digital camera as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output port couples to the world wide web.

17. The digital camera as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a lens located between the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera and the imager to focus the image received through the shutter aperture onto the imager.

18. A method for generating digital images using a non-digital image camera comprising the steps of:

specifying an image to be recorded by actuating the shutter aperture of the non-digital camera, the actuation of the shutter aperture opening the

shutter to permit light reflective of the image to be received in a film cavity of the non-digital camera;

locating an imager and a light detector in the film cavity of the non-digital camera, said light detector controlling the imager such that the imager outputs signals reflective of the image sensed when the light detector detects light due to the opening of the shutter aperture;

said imager outputting signals reflective of a digital image sensed.

19. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of translating the signals to digital data, said digital data reflective of the digital image sensed.

20. The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the step of formatting the signals reflective of the digital image sensed into data words.

21. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of storing in memory representations of the signals reflective of the image sensed.

22. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of processing the signals reflective of the image sensed to modify the image.

23. The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the step of outputting the signals reflective of the image sensed to an external device.

24. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external device is a display device and the step of outputting comprises generating a signals to drive the device in order to display the image.

25. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external device is a telephone system and the step of outputting comprises sending a facsimile representation of the image via the telephone system to a facsimile device.

26. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external device is an interface that transfers the image to other devices.

27. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external device is a system that provides a connection to the internet.

28. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external device is a system that provides a connection to the world wide web.

29. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the step of outputting comprises the step of transmitting information to be output via a wireless connection.